

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Wolfgang Becker, et al.**

Examiner: **Sang Yeop PAIK**

Appln. No.: **10/588,356**

Group Art Unit: **3742**

Filed: **06/06/2007**

Confirmation No.: **8228**

For: **METHOD FOR MODIFYING THE TOPOGRAPHY OF COATED SHEET METAL USING A LASER BEAM AND COATED SHEET METAL WITH A TOPOGRAPHICAL MODIFICATION OF THIS TYPE**

Attorney Docket No.: **3926.279**

Customer No.: **41288**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby provide comments on the relevancy of a non-English language document cited in the corresponding Japanese Application Procedure for the above-referenced application. A Copy of the non-US document set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a is provided herewith.

Japanese Published Application No. 2003-311453 (A) (Document 1)

**Japanese Published Application No. 2003-311453**

Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 1, other than an English language abstract.

Applicants invention is concerned with a method for laser machining of coated metal sheets, i.e.

- producing a topographical change protruding from the surface by means of the laser ,  
wherein
- the laser beam produces the protrusion by performing a motion with transverse and longitudinal components,  
through and/or around the centre of its machining surface,  
such that the protrusion has a tip radius which is greater than its height.

A second aspect of Applicants invention is a coated sheet with at least one of such a protrusion on its surface.

Similarly to Applicants invention, D1 discloses a method for laser machining of coated metal sheets whereby a protrusion is generated to establish a crevice between two sheets into which evaporated coating might escape.

Contrary to Applicants invention, this protrusion is not generated by a laser but by an arc heating device which locally heats the sheet to produce local differences in thermal expansion of the sheet which results in the (temporary) formation of a bend. The bend will become smaller when the hot local spot cools down. So the protrusion of D1 is of a temporary nature while the protrusion made by our invention is steady and remains. Therefore in D1 the laser machining must be done very shortly after the generation of the protrusion while it may be done at any time according to Applicants invention.

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Furthermore, D1 discloses nothing about a special motion of the arc heating device to generate the protrusion while according to our invention a special motion of the laser beam is needed to generate an appropriate protrusion.

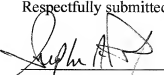
Also, D1 discloses nothing about a special radius to height ratio of the protrusion while this is essential to Applicants invention.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action *on the merits*, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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